



INTERNATIONAL FORUM
OSLO, NORWAY

August
NEWSLETTER
08/2018

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Number 434



INTERNATIONAL FORUM

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Forum Diary

DATE	EVENT	TIME	PAGE
September 3	Steven Hamilton on the Int. Org for Migration	19:00	6
September 4	Edvard Munch. Between the Clock and the Bed	11:45	8
September 27	Emanuelle Vigeland's Mausoleum	11:45	7
October 4	Harald Sohlberg at the National Gallery	TBA	9
October 25	Visit to Snøhetta Architects	17:45	5

From the President



Dear Members,

I have the good fortune of living next to a forest. In the early spring and all throughout the summer months I can hear the melodious frenzy of birds going about their busy lives, their form of hustle and bustle. Among all the birds that nest in 'my forest', there is one which stands out the most in my mind – the blackbird. He (she) sits perched on the very top of a giant spruce tree, silhouetted against the sky, and sings 'of summer in full-throated ease' (John Keats). This blackbird's song has a variety of sweet melodies, and through that, the bird communicates beautiful messages, I feel. I really wonder what my feathered friend is saying, but I know one thing – that bird is communicating.

In writing this, I am reminded of the importance of communication. We need good, clear communication to make things work well – to succeed. How essential this is in running an organisation! For whatever reason, we should try to communicate our thoughts, our needs, and our feelings openly.

Well now, I would like to communicate news from International Forum that will, I am sure, make you happy! The Board has now found a new Treasurer, external to International Forum. Her name is Anne-Lise Fasteland and is a very capable person to take over this important job. She has an impressive background and qualifications in the business economy sector and will be an excellent addition to our organisation. Our new Auditor, Verena Krienke, will be working alongside Anne-Lise. Verena is a skilled and experienced auditor and we are thrilled to have her onboard. Finally, I am delighted to announce that our new Office Coordinator will be Dorota Steensland. She is a long-standing member of International Forum and is both diligent and efficient. I am sure that she and the rest of the office team will work in concert to serve each of you and International Forum as effectively as possible.

I would finally like to welcome you all back to a new year at IF. We have much to look forward to in the 40th anniversary year of International Forum, of international understanding, cooperation and communication.

Best regards to you all,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Sally Bergan'. The script is fluid and cursive.

Sally Bergan,
President

FROM THE OFFICE

Membership Fee for 2018 – 2019

The Membership Fee is NOK **500,-** for full members and NOK 200,- for overseas or associate members.

Please pay through online banking or by ‘Giro’ and remember to state your name clearly in the text field.

New this year: Members with an email address will be sent an invoice for the renewal of the membership on August 20.

Payment should be made to: International Forum
 P.O. Box 1505 Vika
 0117 Oslo
 Bank account no.: **1600 40 36631**

The fee should be paid as soon as possible and **NO LATER** than **September 30**.

Kindly use **no other account**. For overseas or associate members – please indicate your membership **category**. After we have received your payment, we will send you your new membership card.

We thank you for your co-operation.

Renewing Your Membership

- If you are moving abroad, and would like to keep in contact with us by becoming an Overseas Member,
- If you have thought of giving up your membership because you are no longer taking part in any of the Forum activities, but still want to keep in contact with us, there is now the possibility of signing up as an Associate member,
- For overseas or associate members – please indicate your membership **category**. After we have received your payment, we will send you your new membership card.

If, for some reason, **you do not wish to continue** your membership, please send an email to int.forum@online.no or a letter to the Office **before August 31**. We will then take you off our lists and no longer send you the *Newsletter*.

We thank you for your co-operation.

The Office

FROM THE BOARD

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FORUM SINGERS!

The Forum Singers **20th Jubilee** was celebrated with a colourful, diverse and most enjoyable musical performance at Vestre Aker Menighetshus on Wednesday, May 31st. We congratulate our wonderful choir and wish them all the best for the years to come!

Sally Bergan, President

COMING EVENTS

BOARD EVENT

Visit to Snøhetta Architecture Firm

Please reserve the date!

Thursday **October 25** at 17:45 (for 18:00)

The members of the International Forum are cordially invited to visit the premises of one of the world's most famous architecture firms, Snøhetta. We will visit the remarkable production rooms, where innovative architecture, designs and landscapes are created.

Today, Snøhetta has offices in New York, San Francisco, Innsbruck, Stockholm, Paris and Adelaide. Our guide will be Elin H. Nilsen, Marketing Manager. The visit will last from 1 – 1 ½ hours.



The Alexandria Library



The September 11 Memorial Museum
Entrance building by Snøhetta

This event is for members of IF and of the Corps Diplomatique exclusively.

More details will be given in the September *Newsletter*

MONTHLY MEETING

Steven Hamilton on the International Organisation for Migration



The Monthly Meeting Committee is proud to present Mr Steven Hamilton, head of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) Norway, a branch of the United Nations' Migration Agency, who will speak about the organisation's work for migrants in Norway. IOM provides services and advice to both governments and migrants. The organisation is dedicated to the promotion of humane and orderly migration for the benefit of all and has more than 10 000 staff in over 150 countries. IOM's Mission in Norway was established in 2002 at the request of the Norwegian Government.

For the past 15 years, IOM Norway has assisted migrants who choose to return from Norway to their home countries, as well as refugees bound for Norway and their receiving municipalities. The organisation provides cultural orientation – including the rights of women and children and LGBTI rights – and assists migrants in matters pertaining to family reunification.

DATE/TIME: Monday, **September 3** at 18:45 for (19:00)

For more information, please contact the IF Office.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Emanuelle Vigeland's Mausoleum

The Special Events Committee invites you for a visit to what is often called 'One of Oslo's best kept secrets'!

September – when the days are shorter and the nights are getting darker – is the best time of year to visit Emanuelle Vigelands Mausoleum, also known as 'Tomba Emmanuelle' or 'Emanuel's tomb'.

Emanuelle Vigeland (1875 – 1948) was the younger brother of Gustav Vigeland (1869 – 1943). Emanuelle was a multitalented Norwegian artist: He was famous for his paintings, but also for his frescos, stained glass and sculptures. The old chapel at Vestre Gravlund Cemetery is adorned with frescos by Emanuelle Vigeland. His stained-glass work in Oscar's Church in Stockholm is particularly famous.



Our guide will tell us his story and give us all the details about his work. When at the mausoleum, we have to be outside to listen to the guide. After the talk, we go inside to look around. There must be complete silence inside the mausoleum.

DATE/TIME: Thursday, **September 27**, at 11:45

For more information, please contact the IF Office.

ART COMMITTEE

Edvard Munch. **Between the Clock and the Bed**

A Concentrated Look at Edvard Munch as a Painter



On the whole, Edvard Munch's pictures have an uncanny ability to move people, striking a resonant chord, and communicating directly to the viewer. Even though our current understanding of Munch is very different from the way

people saw him in his own time, his work still strikes a chord. Part of what made Munch's ambitions as a young artist so revolutionary was his desire to find a way to convey condensed emotions and moods, as he himself both knew such feelings or had witnessed them up close. At the same time, his pictures were meant to reverberate in his viewers and reflect 'the modern life of the soul', as he put it.

Showing a selection of some of Munch's most resonant paintings from his entire sixty-year long career, the exhibition *Edvard Munch. Between the Clock and the Bed* seeks to answer this very question. The exhibition only features paintings and is devoid of prints, drawings and photographs. Such a concentrated focus makes it possible to take a profound look at Munch's identity as a painter.

DATE/TIME: Tuesday, **September 4**, at 11:45 (for 12:00)

SIGN UP: By email : int.forum@online.no,
katarina.plavnik@gmail.com and ingermraeder@runbox.com
in the same email no later than **August 28**.

For more information, please contact the IF Office.

Harald Sohlberg: *Infinite Landscapes*

Please reserve the date!

October 4 at the National Gallery



Harald Sohlberg is one of the greatest masters of landscape painting in Norwegian art history, and this year, the National Museum holds a major retrospective exhibition of his works. Works on loan from private and public collections will also be shown, some for the first time in over fifty years.

Please see the September *Newsletter* for more details. For an early sign up, please email rosi.lov@online.no

A C T I V I T I E S

ACTIVITY GROUPS AND COURSES – AUTUMN 2018

Activities Committee:

International Forum Activity Groups are formed when one member or a group of members get together and organise an activity. No payment is required and

the activities are open to all members depending on availability. Are you interested? See the contact information below.

If you are interested in an activity that is full, sign up anyway, as there may be cancellations. If you have problems joining an activity because it is full, please contact Anita Solheim, as we might consider forming new groups.

For more information, please contact the IF Office.

ACTIVITY GROUPS

DRAMA READING GROUP

The drama readings are held once a month in a member's home. The plays chosen are both old and new. The dates for the readings are flexible and usually decided a month in advance depending on how many can attend on a specific date. A light lunch is served between acts.

For more information, please contact the IF Office.

INTERNATIONAL BOOK CLUB I

We meet on the third Wednesday of the month in members' homes to discuss a book, usually a novel from the worldwide literature, chosen by the group. The hostess serves a light lunch.

The first meeting was held on August 15 at 11:00 at Dorota Steensland's home. We discussed the book *Pereira Maintains* by Antonio Tabucchi.

The next meeting will be on September 19 at Rosi Løvdaal's. We shall discuss *Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee.

For more information, please contact the IF Office.

INTERNATIONAL BOOK CLUB II

The same objectives as those of the International Book Club I. The gatherings take place once a month on a Thursday in one of the members' homes, and the hostess will serve a light meal.

The first meeting this autumn is scheduled for **Thursday, September 6.**

We shall discuss *Reading Lolita in Teheran* by Azar Nafisi.

I also recommended that you read *The House of the Mosque* by Kader Abdolah. The two books go very well together. The *The House of the Mosque* is an easy read.

For more information, please contact the IF Office.

COOKING GROUP I

We are a small group of ladies who love good food and are interested in sharing recipes and learning from each other. We meet in each other's homes about once a month. The cost of the ingredients is shared amongst us.

We shall start the Autumn cooking sessions on Tuesday **September 11** at 12:30 at Eva Ziegler's home. *For more information, please contact the IF Office.*

COOKING GROUP II

Cooking Group II is a smaller group of maximum eight persons.



The objective is to create a meeting place for cultural exchange, to inspire the members to try to cook food from other cultures, and to share our cooking skills and experiences with each other. The cooking sessions will take place in the homes of the participants on a rotation basis. The hostess decides on the menu and buys the ingredients and beverages. The cost of the ingredients is shared among the participants. We meet once a month, preferably on a Wednesday, at 13:30.

At our June session, Anne-Grethe Skagestad (left) served us a delightful Russian meal with red beet soup and Beef Stroganoff. Thank you Anne-Grethe!

The first gathering after the holidays will be on **Wednesday August 29**, at 13:30 at the home of Gerd Berit Lavik.

For more information, please contact the IF Office.

INDOOR GOLF

This is an indoor activity between **November** and the end of **April** when outdoor golf is impossible. We usually start with a coffee. We have a special price for balls, and private lessons can be arranged. All levels of golfers are welcome – also beginners – so, please do come along!

At the Fornebu Indoor Golf Centre where we practice, there are many tees, a brand-new putting green, and several golf simulators. Many of the group's members have now retired and we are looking for new enthusiastic golfers!

We welcome any member of the International Forum who would like to join us for the winter season 2018 – 2019. Come and try us once! You can play as often or as seldom as you wish. Easy and free three-hour parking for IF members!

We play on Thursdays at 10:30 (**Starting in November**) at Fornebu Indoor Golf Centre, Snarøyveien 69, 1367 Snarøya (the old aircraft hangar).

Free parking 3 hours for International Forum Members. You only need to get a small yellow card to put in your car window together with the ticket from the paying machine.

For more information, please contact the IF Office.

CHOIR GROUP

The Forum Singers choir has about 30 members. We give a concert twice a year, in the spring and around Christmas. We enjoy a varied repertoire: everything from jazz to classics... Our conductor is Eva Landro, a gifted musician who herself sings in Det Norske Solist Kor. The choir practices every other Wednesday evening from 18:00 to 20:30 in Frogner Kirkestue, next to Frogner Church in Bygdøy Allé. Our first practice this season will be on **August 22, 2018**.

New members are welcome! If you enjoy singing and would like to join the choir, please contact choir leader, Lydia Rostad.

For more information, please contact the IF Office.

MONTHLY WEDNESDAY BRIDGE

We generally meet on the second or third Wednesday of the month, depending on the holidays. We are usually 8 or 12 players, on occasion 16. We play duplicate bridge and enjoy a light lunch afterwards. You are most welcome!

For more information, please contact the IF Office.

PHOTO GROUP

The first workshop will be on August 27 from 12:00 to 15:00.

Place: Anita Solheim's home.

We shall edit digital images (cropping, enhancing, etc.), either on a mobile phone or on a computer. In addition, we shall look into how to send pictures in e-mails, what size and resolution to use, and so on. If you have other questions regarding digital photography, or if you have knowledge and tips to share, just come along. New members and 'drop-ins' are welcome.

For more information, please contact the IF Office.

WALKING GROUP



Kerstin Pettersen will send an e-mail to the group members and inform them of the first walk of the autumn. This is great exercise and fun for those who like the outdoors. If you are interested, please send Kerstin your mobile number and email address.

For more information, please contact the IF Office.

SWIMMING AT LYSEBU

(The Danish Cultural Center at Voksenkollen)

International Forum members are most welcome to swim at Lysebu and only have to show their IF membership card at the front desk. The fee is NOK 100.- per visit. This is not a group activity as such, but IF members can use this great, newly renovated facility as a group or individually. Any questions?

For more information, please contact the IF Office.

COURSES

International Forum Courses are organised by members who teach or lead an activity and receive payment for it. If you would like to join, please see the contact information for each course.

ENGLISH

Individual courses tailored to your needs. Refresher courses for conversation – all levels. Soo Lan is the teacher.

For more information, please contact the IF Office.

SPANISH

Beginners, Intermediate Level and Advanced Level.

Wednesdays: Beginners from 15:00 to 16:00, Intermediate students from 16:00 to 17:00, and Advanced students from 18:00 to 19:00

Teacher: Margarita Ludena Stavholt:

For more information, please contact the IF Office.

TRADITIONAL NORWEGIAN ROSE PAINTING



Rosepainting (‘rosemaling’) is a traditional Norwegian folk art which goes back to the 1700s and which is still alive in many parts of the country. Morning and evening courses can be organised for large or small groups.

For more information, please contact the IF Office.

R E P O R T S

BOARD EVENT

Tour of the Royal Garden

June 5, 2018, will always remain a memorable milestone in my many years in Oslo. On an incredibly warm and sunny morning, we met as planned beside the statue of King Karl Johan, at the top of the stairs leading to the Royal Palace.

Twenty-eight International Forum ladies were met by the Head Gardener of the Royal Estates, Ane Senstad Guldahl, formerly botanist at the Oslo Botanical Gardens at Tøyen. Ane gave us an experience which touched my flower- and nature-loving soul, a gift I have from my mother, my grandmother and from my childhood in Mexico. Ane is a well-versed and educated lady who enchanted us all.

Flags were flying and the handsome guards marched past, and as we waited, a group of cars arrived. We waved to those in the cars, and they waved back. It turned out that the President of Slovakia was in Oslo on a state visit!

Our lovely guide then took charge and our tour began. King Karl Johan on his pedestal was soon forgotten as we turned our attention to Queen Maud and her stylish statue, crafted by Ana Madsen. Yellow petunias softly surrounded her on this day.



Next, Ane walked us down the avenue of linden trees, stately and grown over many years. We pondered the fate of old trees; and hope they will be with us for years to come. If they are to be changed, we learned, they must all come down and new ones planted. Yellow daffodils had coloured the growth under the trees, but today they were all off to slumber-land.

Eventually, we arrived at the impressive statue of the world-famous Norwegian mathematician, Nils Henrik Abel, a colossal creation perched on an enormous granite block, a creation by Gustav Vigeland. Today this area of the Garden is known as Abelhaugen. We learned about bundle planting, more about linden trees and about elm trees.

Our tour continued, now down some stairs and up again on the other side of the main entrance avenue – to arrive at Nisseberget. We learned about the upgrading of this area, once a rather disreputable place. Today it is a charming little oasis surrounded by birch trees. These have been especially pruned into fanciful shapes. There were also benches surrounded by lovely plants.

We continued up eventually to reach the place where the late Crown Princess Märtha is portrayed by Kirsten Kokkin. A moving experience for all who remember the war days, when this lovely lady and her children lived in Washington D.C. The same statue is standing outside the Norwegian Embassy in Washington. We heard a touching memory told to us by Ellen Vollebeck, whose husband was Norway's ambassador to the US some years ago.

Ane told us that she is most grateful to Queen Sonja for the interest she has shown this statue of her late mother-in-law. Flowers had been planted and new trees grown.

Our tour continued to the Princess Ingrid Alexandra Sculpture Garden, fashioned by children, for children. This led us to the charming ponds with ducks darting back and forth and splashing their wings in the cool waters.

The path then took us back to the part of the Park that adjoins the private gardens. We stopped at the statue of Queen Sonja, also crafted by Kirsten Kokkin, showing the Queen on a rock – a strong and beautiful person, a nature lover as well as a gifted artist.

Our tour ended and Sally gave our thanks to Ane, our knowledgeable guide. Some of us stayed to enjoy a quick picnic.

Afterwards I wandered back and took in the Changing of the guard, and at the same time enjoyed seeing all the happy tourists visiting the park on this sunny day.

Thank you Ladies of the Board, and especially Soo Lan Høegh-Henrichsen, for a memorable experience.

Elizabeth Bøhn

SPECIAL EVENTS

Trip to Hadeland, June 13, 2018

On a pleasant June morning, a group of Forum ladies was sitting on the bus, with Sigurd at the wheel, on the way to Hadeland. We were all looking forward to visiting three attractions: Grinakervev, the Sister Churches and Glasslåven. The two-hour drive took us through beautiful countryside with green rolling hills, farmland and lakes. The Special Events Committee provided us with delicious home-baked buns and mineral water to sustain us. We had an early start!

Our first stop was Grinakervev, the Grinaker weaving house, which is situated on Nordre Grinaker farm. Jo Lyngstad, the owner, came to greet us. We gathered outside, admiring the lovely old farmhouse from 1800, while he told us the history of how the farm became a weaving mill: Jo Lyngstad's mother, Elin, held weaving classes in the smithy. In 1988, she and eight of her students, with the help of her husband, bought more looms and started a weaving business.



After his talk, Jo took us to the barn where the mechanical looms are installed. There were various types of looms: one for woollen upholstery, one for woollen blankets, and one for the blue-and-white striped cotton material for the 'busserull' – a traditional jacket for everyday use – and a loom for their most important product: damask linen tablecloths and napkins. The Oslo City Hall is among their customers. Jo then demonstrated how this loom functions.

After the weaving demonstration, we walked over to the building where they sold the finished products. There was an enormous variety of woven goods to choose from, and Jo's wife, Gro, was there to help us.

Then it was time for lunch, and we drove a short distance to Bergslia Gjestestuer [Inn] where Monica and her crew were waiting for us. Here, we were served tasty lunch platters, coffee and tea, in pleasant surroundings, and we enjoyed a cosy hour chatting together.

After lunch, we drove up to Granavollen, to the S sterkirkene [the Sister Churches], high up on the hill. Our guide, Anne Marie Hvattum, was waiting for us at the churchyard gate. The churchyard is surrounded on all sides by the remains of a fortress-like wall. Owing to the rich and fertile soil, there have been farming settlements in Hadeland for thousands of years, and many Viking kings were born in the area.

Norway formally adopted Christianity in AD 1030. Mariakirken, the church of Mary, the smaller one, was built at Granavollen in AD 1100, and Nikolaikirken, the church of St. Nicholas, the patron saint of travellers, in AD 1152. There are many theories and myths about why the churches are called the *Sister Churches*, but our guide told us that the most likely reason is that they stand side by side and look very much alike. We were also shown a copy of a gravestone from

around AD 1040 with a Christian message in runic letters. The original is kept in a museum in Oslo.

The church of Mary is simple, but very beautiful, built of rough stone by local men. The church of St. Nicolaus is more ornamented. It was built by English stonemasons. The churches continue to be in use today, the church of Mary for concerts, and the church of St. Nicolaus for regular Sunday services and big occasions.

After the churches, we walked over to the Glasslåven [the glass barn], just across the road, part of a cluster of lovely old buildings all arranged around a square. Hilde, who runs the glass barn, was outside to greet us, alongside a beautiful pair of horse sculptures by Anna Widén. In the 1970s, it was a popular place for holidaymakers. Today, Granavollen is a quiet place and its buildings are on the National Heritage List.



Glasslåven was originally an enormous barn from 1880, but became the centre for an art community when Randi Eek Thorsen bought it. She joined forces with glass artist Ulla Brantenberg and some local artists, and converted the barn into a gallery and centre for professional artists, which opened in 2016.

Ulla Brantenberg's glass furnace burns continually and heats the building. There are 14 rooms that artists may rent, and only highly professional craftspeople are admitted. They work in various fields: jewellery, glass, fine arts, dance, writing, musical composition, to name but a few.

Then it was time to head back to Oslo, full of impressions after an interesting day in Hadeland, which has a lot to offer in the way of culture and history. Many thanks to the Special Events Committee for arranging the trip, the Forum ladies and their guests for taking part, and Sigurd, our driver, and Askeladden buses.

Rosemary Hauge

Issued by the Board of the International Forum

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